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Britain took European Championships eventing gold last year



# Riders and horses set to go for GB glory on world stage

The dressage and eventing squads have been announced

By ELEANOR JONES

CONFIDENCE is high in the British eventing and dressage camps, as the squads set to compete at the World Equestrian Games (WEG) have been named.

Eventers Ros Canter, on her own and Caroline Moore's Allstar B, Tina Cook with Elizabeth Murdoch and Keith Tyson's Billy The Red, Piggy French and Jayne McGivern's Quarrycrest Echo, Tom McEwen with his own, Jane Inns and Ali McEwen's Toledo De Kerser and Gemma Tattersall with her own and the Soul Syndicate's Arctic Soul will travel to Tryon, USA, for the Games, which will run from 11 to 23 September.

But there was controversy as the line-up does not include world number one Oliver Townend, who won the Kentucky Three-Day Event this year and was second at Badminton in May. Oliver had been long-listed on three horses, Ballaghmor Class, Cooley Master Class and Cooley SRS.

In a statement Oliver said he was "hugely disappointed", and had "given it everything", while wishing the squad luck in Tryon.

Performance manager Dickie Waygood said the selection was "extremely close".

"We've got a very good team,"

he told *H&H*. "We've got a great bunch with strength and depth to select from. Final runs were good for everyone, the horses are in good shape and the riders can't wait to get on the plane."

Dickie added that the main challenge in Tryon will be the cross-country, and it has been confirmed that the course will be the full length, which was in doubt (news, 2 August).

"The hill at the end of the course is in; the last section, after approximately the seven-minute

marker, is going to be a fair pull," he said.

"[But confidence] is very good. We've got a great team and we're in a really good place."

The dressage squad comprises Charlotte Dujardin with the Mount St John Stud's Mount St John Freestyle, Emile Faurie with Hof Kasselmann's Dono Di Maggio, Carl Hester with his own, Lady Anne Evans and Ann Cory's Hawtins Delicato and Spencer Wilton with his own and Jen Goodman's Super Nova II. Elena Knyaginicheva's Delatio is a direct reserve horse for Emile, while Lara Butler and Dr Wilfried and

Ursula Bechtolsheimer's Rubin Al Asad are the other reserve pair.

Dressage performance manager Caroline Griffith said: "It's very exciting to be working with a team who have such a wealth of experience between them and I know that they'll use that experience to best effect."

"We've seen some great scores this year from those on the shortlist, which underlines the strength of the athletes and horses who will be travelling to Tryon."

"If anyone can prepare these high-calibre young horses, we know Carl, Charlotte and Emile can. Add Spencer and we have capacity for truly exciting team scores and a great competition."

## RUNNERS AND RIDERS: THE FORM

### EVENTING

Horse	Age	Number of previous championships	Best four-star/championship result
Billy The Red	11	1	4th
Quarrycrest Echo	11	1	22nd
Toledo De Kerser	11	0	4th
Allstar B	13	1	3rd
Arctic Soul	15	1	2nd

### DRESSAGE

Horse	Age	2018 grand prix average	All-time grand prix best
Mount St John Freestyle	9	77.7%	79.65%
Hawtins Delicato	10	76.34%	77.21%
Super Nova II	15	75.02%	78.66%
Dono Di Maggio	11	71.55%	74.02%